

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6701

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USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LISON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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TAGS: PFOR SP UNGA SS

SUBJ: FRANCO'S REPLY TO SAHARANS ON SELF-DETERMINATION

REF : A. MADRID 5529 B. MADRID 936

1. GOS RELEASED SEPTEMBER 27 TEXT OF FRANCO'S REPLY TO FEBRUARY PETITION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SAHARA (YEMAA) (REF B) ASKING THAT GOS BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR SAHARAN SELF-DETERMINATION.

2. FRANCO'S REPLY IS PREFACED BY FOLLOWING RESTATEMENT OF GOS OBLIGATIONS TO PEOPLE OF THE SAHARA AND ITS POSITION ON THEIR FUTURE:

(A) TIES OF SAHARANS TO SPAIN ARE "ABSOLUTELY VOLUNTARY." AND SPAIN WILL DEFEND THEIR RIGHT OF FREE CHOICE.

(B) SPAIN GUARANTEES TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF
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SAHARA,

(C) SPAIN COMMITTED TO PROCEED WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF TERRITORY, RECOGNIZING RIGHTS OF SAHARAN PEOPLE TO BENEFITS OF THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES AND THEIR RIGHT TO PROMOTE THEIR OWN CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS ADVANCEMENT.

(D) SPAIN GUARANTEES RIGHT OF SAHARANS TO FREELY DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE WHEN POPULATION CHOOSES TO DO SO. SYSTEM OF "PROGRESSIVE PARTICIPATION" OF SAHARAN PEOPLE IN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS WILL BE ESTABLISHED UPON COMPLETION OF NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

3. REPLY CONTINUES BY SETTING FORTH FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING POLITICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION OF THE SAHARA WHICH ULTIMATELY TO BE EMBODIED IN SPECIAL STATUTE.

(A) SAHARANS ARE OWNERS OF THEIR RICHES AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

(B) AS LONG AS STATUTE IN EFFECT, SAHARANS WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY ALL RIGHTS OF SPANISH NATIONALITY.

(C) CHIEF OF STATE EMBODIES COMMUNITY EXISTING BETWEEN SPAIN AND SAHARA AND WILL BE REPRESENTED IN SAHARA BY A GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

(D) SPAIN GUARANTEES SAHARA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, REPRESENTS IT IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND ASSURES ITS DEFENSE. INTERNAL AFFAIRS ARE WITHIN COMPETENCE OF THE TERRITORY'S OWN INSTITUTIONS. YEMAA, AS SUPREME REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SAHARAN PEOPLE, IS EMPOWERED TO ENACT LEGISLATION ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POWERS OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL. YEMAA ALSO WILL PROPOSE INITIATIVES AND MEASURES IT DEEMS BEST IN SUCH AFFAIRS.

4. THE ADVANCEMENT OF TRADITIONAL USAGES AND CUSTOMS AS WELL AS KORANIC JUSTICE, SHALL BE CONFIRMED AND INTENSIFIED.

5. IF THE YEMAA APPROVES THESE PRINCIPLES, THEY WILL BE DEVELOPED IN DETAILED FORM IN THE APPROPRIATE STATUTE, WHICH WILL BE APPROVED BY LAW.

6. THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE YEMAA OF THESE PRINCIPLES DOES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT SUPPLANT OR IMPAIR THE RIGHT OF SAHARAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION, FOR WHICH NEW STAGE IS NECESSARY PREPARATION.

7. COMMENT: RELEASE OF FRANCO'S REPLY TO THE SAHARAN PETITION FOLLOWED CLOSELY FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ RODO'S ANNOUNCEMENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE AT UN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' APPROVAL OF A DRAFT STATUTE TO BROADEN PARTI-

CIPATION OF SAHARANS IN THEIR OWN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
LOPEZ RODO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID DRAFT STATUTE WOULD BE
PRESENTED IMMEDIATELY AT UNGA. RELEASE OF NEW INITIATIVE
ON SAHARA APPARENTLY TIMED TO STRENGTHEN GOS POSITION
DURING EXPECTED UNGA AND FOURTH COMMITTEE DEBATES ON
STATUS OF SAHARA. FRANCO'S REPLY REAFFIRMS IN DETAILED
TERMS SPAIN'S PLEDGE OF ULTIMATE SELF-DETERMINATION AND
COMMITTS SPAIN TO DEFINITE PREPARATORY STEPS. BUT
IT PLACES SOME OF BURDEN ON SAHARANS THEMSELVES TO DEVELOP
AND REFINER THESE STEPS. WHILE TEXT OF DRAFT STATUTE STILL
NOT AVAILABLE HERE, FRANCO'S REPLY SUGGESTS NEW FORMULA
UNLIKELY TO BRING ABOUT SOON ANY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION
OF POWERS OF SPANISH ADMINISTRATORS IN TERRITORY OR
COMMIT SPAIN TO EXPLICIT TIMETABLE FOR SELF-
DETERMINATION.
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